

In the claims

Please cancel claims 6, 12, 14 and 16 – 23 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

1 – 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended): A separator for a fuel cell, comprising a molded body, wherein the molded body is produced by ~~filling a molding die with a graphite powder coated with a phenol resin and molding the graphite powder into a prescribed separator shape by applying pressure~~ the method comprising:

mixing and reacting phenols, formaldehydes and graphite powder with a reaction catalyst to produce a phenol resin-coated graphite powder; and

pressure molding the resin-coated graphite powder into the shape of the molded body,

wherein the structure of the phenol resin comprises -NH_2 , -OCH_2 or -SCH_2 bonding between the benzene nucleus of phenols, and wherein the resin-coated graphite powder has an average diameter of from about 15 μm to about 125 μm , and wherein the molded body comprises a resin content of from about 10 wt.% to about 24 wt.%.

5. (Previously presented): The separator of claim 4, wherein the molded body comprises ~~a resin content of about 10 wt.% to 24 wt.%,~~ a bending strength of 40 MPa or higher, a gas permeability of $10 \times 10^{-8} \text{ cc}\cdot\text{cm}/\text{cm}^2\cdot\text{sec}\cdot\text{atm}$ or lower, and a volume resistance of $10 \times 10^{-3} \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ or lower.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented): The separator of claim 4, wherein the molded body comprises a resin content of about 14 wt.% to 18 wt.%.

8. (Previously presented): The separator of claim 4, wherein the graphite powder comprises graphite particles, and wherein gaps between the graphite particles are filled with the phenol resin.

9. (Previously presented): The separator of claim 4, wherein the separator comprises a thickness of about 1 mm to 3mm.

10. (Currently amended): A method for forming a separator for a fuel cell, comprising: ~~pressure-molding a resin-coated graphite powder into a prescribed separator shape at a molding pressure of 100 kg/cm² to 1000 kg/cm² and a molding temperature of 120°C to 240°C, wherein the resin-coated graphite powder comprises an average particle diameter of 15 µm to 125 µm.~~

mixing and reacting phenols, formaldehydes and graphite powder with a reaction catalyst to produce a phenol resin-coated graphite powder; and

pressure molding the phenol resin-coated graphite powder into the form of the separator at a molding pressure of from about 100 kg/cm² to about 1000 kg/cm² and a temperature of from about 120 °C to 240 °C,

wherein the structure of the phenol resin comprises -NH_2 , -OCH_2 or -SCH_2 bonding between the benzene nucleus of phenols, and wherein the phenol resin-coated graphite powder has an average diameter of 15 to 125 μm .

11. (Previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the separator has a resin content of less than about 24 wt.%.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented): The method of claim 10, further comprising filling a molding die with the resin-coated graphite powder prior to pressure-molding the resin-coated graphite powder, wherein the molding die comprises the prescribed separator shape.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the resin-coated graphite powder comprises graphite particles, and wherein gaps between the graphite particles are substantially filled with the resin.

16 – 23 (Cancelled).

24. (New): A separator for a fuel cell comprising a molded body, wherein the molded body is produced by the method comprising:

mixing and reacting phenols, formaldehydes and graphite powder with a reaction catalyst to produce a phenol resin-coated graphite powder; and
pressure molding the resin-coated graphite powder into the shape of the molded body

25. (New): The separator of claim 24, wherein the molded body comprises a resin content from about 10 wt.% to about 24 wt.%.

26. (New): The separator of claim 24, wherein the phenol resin-coated graphite powder has an average diameter of from about 15 μm to about 125 μm .

27. (New): The separator of claim 24, wherein the structure of phenol resin comprises $-\text{NCH}_2$, $-\text{OCH}_2$, or $-\text{SCH}_2$ bonding between the benzene nucleus of phenols.

28. (New): A method for forming a separator for a fuel cell comprising the steps:

mixing and reacting phenols, formaldehydes and graphite powder with a reaction catalyst to produce a phenol resin-coated graphite powder; and

pressure molding the phenol resin-coated graphite powder into the form of the separator.

29. (New): The method of claim 28, wherein the resin-coated graphite powder has an average diameter of 15 to 125 μm .

30. (New): The method of claim 28, wherein the structure of the phenol resin comprises $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{OCH}_2$ or $-\text{SCH}_2$ bonding between the benzene nucleus of phenols.

31. (New): The method of claim 28, wherein the pressure molding is performed at a molding pressure of from about 100 kg/cm^2 to about 1000 kg/cm^2 and a temperature of from about 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ to 240 $^\circ\text{C}$.